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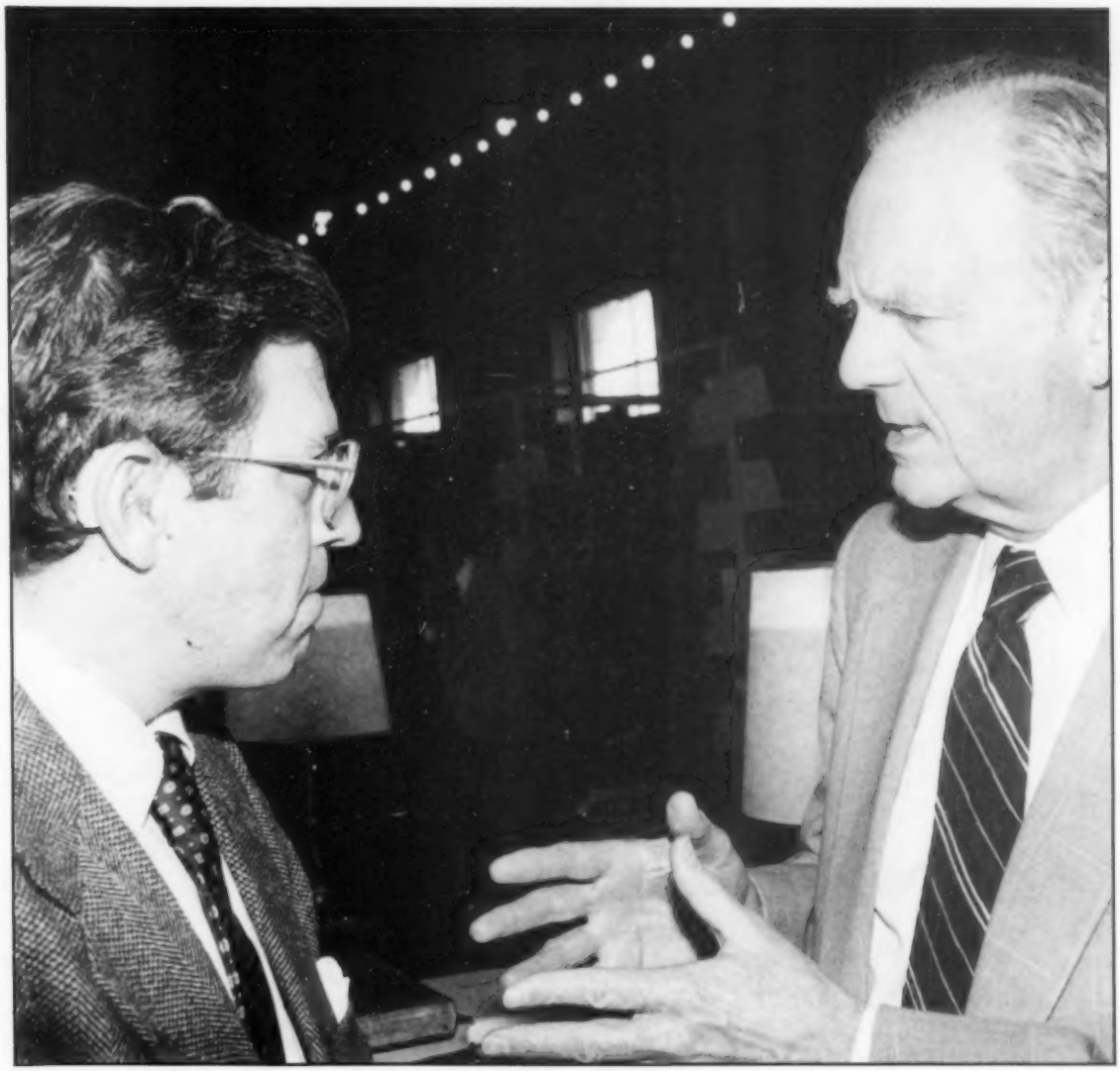

The Hispanic Division

ALSO: Special Section on IFLA During Soviet Coup

Library of Congress

INFORMATION BULLETIN

JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress

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On the Cover: Scholars from the world over come to the Library's Hispanic Division to pursue their research projects. Franklin Pease (left) of Peru came to the division to discuss the Andean collection with division Chief Cole Blasier.

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Special Section: LC Delegates at IFLA

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Witnessing a Revolution:
The Library Delegation at IFLA

They went to Moscow to attend the annual conference of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions Aug. 18-24.

But as IFLA got under way with 1,300 delegates, they found themselves witnessing an unexpected upheaval: the Aug. 19-21 coup attempt in the Soviet Union.

The 13 Library of Congress staffers who traveled to Moscow with Dr. Billington had sometimes very different experiences, but they were all unanimous in their praise of the Russian people who thwarted the coup plotters.

☐ For Judy McDermott, chief of the Exchange and Gift Division, "It was an extremely emotional experience. We all knew that we were witnessing a very important historical event. We kept each other informed by sort of a Soviet-style rumor network.

"Luckily we were librarians and had many Russian speakers among our IFLA colleagues," she continued. "So we would meet on street corners, in

The Russian parliament building, or White House, was barricaded with anything the resisters could find. A photo of Yeltsin, who was inside the building, fittingly was placed in this truck's window. *Photo by Henry Paris*

meetings and in hotels and share information."

Ms. McDermott was at the IFLA conference to discuss exchange programs between LC and libraries in the Soviet Union and to represent LC's acquisitions programs at IFLA. Despite the coup attempt, she got the job done. She met her counterpart at the Lenin State Library on the Friday after the coup.

"One of the most striking memories I have is that after we did our business, she told me that this was the end of the Soviet experiment, and that it was a failed experiment. Had it not been for communism, their country with its great wealth of resources would have developed as the West did. She didn't

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A Celebration Of CRS Cooperation

In April 1990 Speaker of the House Thomas S. Foley appointed Martin Frost, a Texas Democrat, to lead a project to provide assistance to emerging democratic governments in Eastern Europe – Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria and Poland.

An Aug. 21 meeting in Prague, attended by William H. Robinson, deputy director of the Congressional Research Service, was to celebrate the installation of 100 powerful personal computers, which will be linked in an information network to help the Czechoslovak parliament track legislation and to store and retrieve legislative information.

Mr. Robinson has coordinated the project for CRS and the Library, which has administrative responsibility for the project. "I have the overall coordination responsibility, but we're drawing on so many elements of the Library, in addition to consultation from the House Information Systems staff," he said.

The project began in fiscal 1991 with a $6 million congressional appropriation. There are several Library staffers involved in the project, with Pat Gardner of Contracts and Logistics playing a key role, but also including Exchange and Gift, the Law Library, Order Division, European Division and the Copyright Office.

Rep. Frost was there for the celebration, where he met with President Vaclav Havel. It was also a time to celebrate the parliamentary library's recent acquisitions, many of which were obtained through LC's Exchange and Gift Division.

Similar projects are planned for Hungary and Bulgaria, and a Senate program similarly aided Poland in its acquisition of equipment.

"The story has a hero, Congress, that is not seeking publicity for the project," Mr. Robinson said. "Frost is interested in getting results and promoting democracy."

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think that there was much hope for her generation to build a life of prosperity and peace, and maybe not even for her children, but there could possibly be a better life for her grandchildren," Ms. McDermott said. "It was remarkable that I heard almost the same speech from the headwaiter at a restaurant that night. There were very similar opinions from people in very different walks of life."

For the LC staffers, Ms. McDermott said, "it was almost a point of honor that everyone continue to go to the meetings. There were some difficulties on certain days because most of us 'lived' on the other side of town in hotels that were separated from the conference center [the Moscow Center for International Trade and Scientific Cooperation with Foreign Countries] by barricades. [Most LC staffers stayed at the Rossiya Hotel on Red Square.] The usual shuttle buses or taxis couldn't get through, so we used the subway."

But the irony of carrying on "important" library business during "this supercharged atmosphere" did not escape Ms. McDermott: "Quite frankly, a lot of our library business at IFLA sometimes seemed rather trivial in comparison with the world-shaking events that were going on. . . . On the other hand, what else was there to do?"

The might of the Soviet army tanks was trivialized by the children who played on them and conversed with the soldiers, who did not seem to be in the mood to fight against their fellow countrymen. *Photo by Judy McDermott*

When she did have the opportunity to move about the city, Ms. McDermott saw the spontaneous memorials to the three young men who had died while resisting the Soviet tanks. "There were candles and flowers placed at the sites. I saw one of the [memorials] at night, where the candles were burning and hundreds of people were milling about in total silence. It was very moving, a chance to honor real heroism, and it was inspirational."

But when it was clear on Wednesday that the coup had failed, "there was euphoria throughout the city," and an IFLA reception sponsored by the

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CRS *(Cont. from p. 367)*

Mr. Robinson explained that CRS and House Information Systems technicians worked with Czechoslovak legislators and technicians to find out what they needed and then helped them design a system that would do the job. The legislators selected the bidders, who are required to provide training and service as well as hardware. Many of the vendors who bid on the Prague project represented joint ventures between Czechoslovak and American companies, Mr. Robinson said.

The Czechoslovaks have competent technicians. "All they lacked was money and machines," Mr. Robinson said.

The PCs will be networked, and will be used to track a bill's progress through the legislative system, create a legislative digest and retrieve data created by the parliamentary library.

CRS has also been promoting parliamentary development in Moscow. The Joint Committee on the Library has granted approval to engage in exchange and cooperation programs with the Soviet Union and has approved privately funded programs. But no hardware is involved. "Our participation has been more limited," said Mr. Robinson. "It probably will include materials, training of staff, bringing people here to see a democratic government in operation."

CRS has twice previously sent staff to Moscow, and Soviets visited CRS in February 1990. It is expected the Soviets will return next spring, "depending on what happens with the national legislature," said Mr. Robinson. "Most of us involved in this think it is one of the most exciting things that has happened in our careers. We keep telling ourselves we're working on nuts and bolts—copiers, books—but somehow we can't help feeling we're involved in a process that strengthens ties between the two nations and lays the underpinnings for a more effective democracy."

Soviet government "was a joyous affair."

☐ Deputy Librarian of Congress Winston Tabb was reelected secretary of the IFLA Interlibrary Loan and Documents Delivery Section. He was also elected secretary of the Division of Collections Services, the IFLA unit that focuses on all aspects of bibliographic services.

Mr. Tabb accompanied Judy McDermott to a meeting at the Library of Foreign Literature. During the meeting, "we were talking about exchanges of children's literature while wondering what was going on around us. It was very surreal. All of us had decided that what we had to do was keep functioning. But doing just our business as usual at IFLA seemed trivial," Mr. Tabb said.

"We also didn't know whether people we were talking to would be in a position in a few days to carry out any of the arrangements we had made," he added. "Fortunately, it was a gamble that paid off."

Before the conference, Mr. Tabb and the Librarian stayed at the home of James Collins, the deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy, who is a longtime acquaintance of Mr. Tabb. Mr. Collins' official residence is diagonally across the street from the White House. "We left for the Rossiya Hotel just

A bride and her groom visit an impromptu memorial to one of those who died during the coup. *Photo by Judy McDermott*

before the coup, so we literally got out just in time, but lost our ringside seat," Mr. Tabb said.

The "most exciting" thing that Mr. Tabb observed was on Tuesday, the second day of the coup. "There was a demonstration, and on a distant hill I could see what looked like the red, white and blue prerevolutionary Russian flag, a very large flag undulating in the distance. And it kept getting larger and larger, but there wasn't enough room for the people carrying it to spread out. Then, just a few feet away from where I was standing, the demonstrators broke through the line of tanks and they came through with their flag unfurled. It was very moving."

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National Library Service Urges Standardization At IFLA

At IFLA, Henry Paris, chief of the Materials Development Division for the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, delivered two papers.

One paper, "The Sharing of Special-Media Materials Among Libraries: Sale, Loan, Exchange and Gift," by NLS's James Herndon, Tom Martin and Mr. Paris, discussed the pros and cons of the purchase, loan, exchange and donation of braille and audio publications, with particular reference to the experiences of NLS.

The second, "The U.S. Talking Book System: Current and Future Requirements," by Lloyd Rasmussen, Judith Dixon and Mr. Paris, detailed the requirements and constraints that govern current and future design of the U.S. talking book system. According to its authors, "The paper is intended as a first step to encourage the exchange of similar information about the requirements of talking book systems in other countries."

The ultimate goal is the development of an international talking book system that would facilitate international lending of audio materials for the blind.

Because current U.S. copyright laws prohibit the altering of loaned materials from an incompatible to a compatible format, achieving this goal would greatly ease international lending barriers. There are three systems in current use: the U.S., the British and the standard commercial cassette system.

"The Russians have adopted our system so we're compatible with them," said Mr. Paris. "The U.S. system is pretty much used around the world. Part of what we're doing here [at IFLA] is to set a standardized system. Great Britain and the United States use noncompatible technologies. This paper outlines our requirements and all the things we will need in a future system."

For Mr. Tabb, the "worst part" about being in Moscow at the time "was not being able to understand all that was going on. But it was great to have Dr. Billington literally interpreting the language as well as the politics of what was going on.

"It was only after I returned home that I was able to understand the details of what had really happened," said Mr. Tabb. "My wife had saved the past five days of *The New York Times* for me."

☐ Like Ms. McDermott, "euphoria" was the word that Kathryn Mendenhall used to describe the mood when news broke that the plotters had been defeated. Ms. Mendenhall, supervisor of the Library Specialist Unit in the Cataloging Distribution Service, was there along with Susan Tarr, CDS chief, and Kevin Flood, CDS customer services officer. The CDS trio went to IFLA to demonstrate its products with an eye on expansion of business in Eastern Europe and exchanges of bibliographic data.

Though everything worked out in the end, things did not go exactly as intended. "We had 32 boxes of materials that we had planned on handing out," said Mr. Flood. "They were rerouted to Paris to Moscow to Tel Aviv

The pedestal from which KGB (building at left) founder Dzerzhinsky's statue was removed, replaced by a prerevolutionary Russian flag. *Photo by Judy McDermott*

to Moscow, and the boxes finally arrived the day after we closed the exhibit." "We were, however, able to maintain a good level of demonstration. We had lots of customers," he added.

Losing a wallet containing a passport, credit cards, identification–"everything"–did not prevent Ms. Tarr from doing business. "By Thursday evening I had gotten another passport, and the phone rang in my hotel about 9:15, and this guy said, 'I have your passport.' But he didn't speak any other English. So I pulled out my Russian word book and figured out how to tell him to meet me" at the hotel lobby. "He had found the wallet in a pay phone at the hotel, and it had everything in it but the cash. . . . He was this honest person who wanted to return my things."

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The Coup in Review: *Librarian Speaks on His Experiences in Moscow*

Leading the Library's delegates to IFLA in Moscow was Dr. Billington.

On Sept. 11 he described what he had seen to a lunchtime crowd of Library staffers and other guests.

Edited excerpts:

"I was never more proud of my associates at the Library of Congress. I was proud of the maturity, the intelligence and even good humor with which our colleagues met the peculiar circumstances that they were suddenly confronted with. Far from leaving, as most people did, the Library of Congress folk stayed on and indeed doubled their schedules, doing more visitations, more things."

Dr. Billington described the work of Mikhail "Misha" Levner, head of LC's Moscow acquisitions office, during the coup period:

"He has done a wonderful job of delivering to the Library the best collection of independent publications outside of Russia and maybe even inside. . . . He was collecting them during the entire coup."

As for some of his own meetings, the Librarian said:

"It was extraordinary to be talking about technical library questions in the middle of a coup. My talks were given at the Library of Foreign Literatures, which is run by Viacheslav Ivanov who is a member of our Council of Scholars. He is very probably the world's greatest living linguist. This is the library that used to be headed by [former Premier] Kosygin's daughter. . . . The joke is that it used to be run by somebody who spoke no foreign languages but had great political connections. . . . It is now run by somebody who speaks all foreign languages and had no political connections. Ivanov's deputy, Ekaterina Genieva, who addressed the Library's Professional Association here earlier this year

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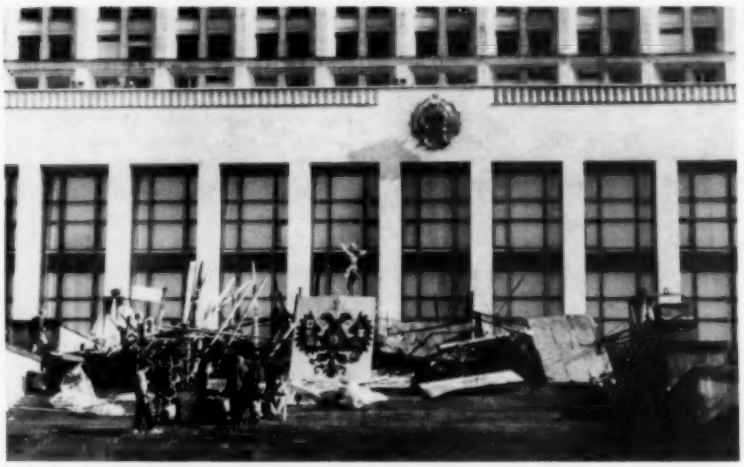
For many of the foreign librarians who visited the CDS booth, it was a chance to see an unfamiliar technology—CD-ROM. "They weren't familiar with our specific products or that sophisticated technologically, but they were so curious. Some were very familiar with MARC (machine-readable cataloging) and they picked up on the [CD-ROM] technology because of that," said Ms. Mendenhall.

Ms. Tarr spent some of her time meeting with members of the Soviet All Union Book Chamber. LC's Natalia Montviloff (see below) "has been working with the Chamber to get them to conform to the cataloging conventions that are accepted in the United States and to get their data into a standardized format so that it can be converted to USMARC, and that part is almost completed. That's a pretty exciting development."

Ms. Tarr also met with representatives from the National Diet Library of Japan, the Bibliothèque Nationale of France and the National Library of Canada. "We have a standing data exchange with Canada, and next year we will begin to distribute data of the Bibliothèque Nationale and the National Diet Library."

Ms. Tarr had a frightening experience when she was trying to get to the U.S. Embassy to register, as the embassy had asked all Americans to do.



Barricades on the steps of the White House; a crucifix, symbol of once-outlawed Christianity, was also placed at the site. *Photo by Kevin Flood*

"I was with [the Library's Julie Beall]. We took a wrong turn from the subway, and Julie was checking her map, and we ended up right in the square where they were knocking down trees to set up the barricades. And we looked at the White House [Russian parliament building]. There were tanks, and we said, 'No, no. This is *not* the U.S. Embassy and this is not a good place to be."

Ms. Mendenhall said, "The only fear I experienced was when I was struck with the thought that no one could really predict how this would turn out. . . . Yet, seeing the tanks and the youthfulness of the soldiers, it was hard to think that those people could have shot their countrymen." She added, "It was more like a display of military hardware."

Mr. Flood agreed: "I got on a tank to take a photo. There were children on the tanks. But when two of the soldiers got out of the tank, I thought

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Librarian *(Cont. from p. 370)*

[see LC *Information Bulletin*, July 29], is one of these wonderfully powerful women who have kept the Russian culture alive even under Soviet conditions."

On Aug. 18, Dr. Billington recalled, "The night before the coup, I was on Echo Moscow, which is the principal independent radio station. It was a call-in show and it was solely about the Library of Congress, and you would all be delighted to know how informed they were. . . . The first call in was about the service for the blind and physically handicapped, asking if we have Russian-language tapes and braille and so forth. It was a very moving call from somebody way out in the provinces who had heard about the services."

The next day, Dr. Billington noted, he attended two conferences: "The IFLA conference and the Congress of Compatriots both opened on the Monday of the coup, so there were two major international conferences opening just as the coup was announced. The Congress of Compatriots was an interesting group. . . . It was designed to bring back all Russian émigrés to reconcile themselves to Russia and it was organized by Yeltsin and his organization. Yeltsin appeared and spoke, as did most of the major officials of the Russian Republic. . . . The Soviet [conservative] leaders all had their "toothpaste tubes." Toothpaste tube is the euphemism for [scholars] who do all the writing and then the leader lifts their name and sends it to some respectable international journal and publishes it. But anyhow [on Aug. 19–21] the toothpaste tubes were all out of the bathroom and on the barricades. The coup really was in part a generational revolt. The generation that had grown up and benefited under Brezhnev were aging, and they were terrified of what they saw, the erosion of the Communist party. A

(Cont. on p. 372)

that the tourist party was over. I had thought the tank was empty. . . . One of the soldiers held out a gun, and I thought, 'Oh, my God!' but he was showing me that the gun was empty."

Mr. Flood took note of how the weather reflected the turn of events. "It was very somber" while the coup plotters were in control. "It was really a metaphor for the mood of the country."

"Then, quite literally," Mr. Flood continued, "when Gorbachev was released, the sun came out and it was delightful."

☐ Natalia Montviloff of Shared Cataloging traveled to Moscow to act as an interpreter at the CDS booth. The grandparents of Ms. Montviloff, who was born in Poland, emigrated from the Soviet Union in 1918. She was last in Moscow in 1989, working with a specialist from the All Union Book Chamber on conversion of their records to the UNIMARC international standard. She and another LC staffer also met with two Book Chamber specialists in June at the Library (see story, page 376).

Her fluency in Russian came in handy in more ways than she had expected. Not only was she able to interpret questions and answers regarding

A trolley car, another of the things ingeniously used for protection, was moved to the White House blockade; it was later destroyed by a tank. *Photo by Henry Paris*

CDS products, she was also able to get updates from the visitors on what was happening with the coup.

She first heard of the coup early Monday morning, Aug. 19. "I didn't sleep well that night. I woke up very early, turned on the TV and I saw an announcer come on, saying that Gorbachev was ill and was resigning for reasons of health.

"At first I wasn't quite sure" whether to believe it, Ms. Montviloff continued. "By the second announcement, when they said, 'Our motherland is in mortal danger . . .' That is such a cliche, harking back to the old Stalinist times, that at that point I realized that something very serious was going on."

While the coup was in effect, Ms. Montviloff witnessed an incident that would have been typical in pre-*glasnost* days: "I went into the post office and they had CNN on the TV. As I was standing in line a man came in, unplugged the TV, picked it up and started walking away. The woman working there asked, 'What are you doing?' He looked at her and said, 'Repairs'

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Librarian *(Cont. from p. 371)*

whole new generation was rising up, and it didn't much matter whether they were priests in the Orthodox church, officers of the KGB, young officers in the army, young assistant professors in the universities, toothpaste tubes in the institutes. Among these folk there was a general sense of revulsion at what the previous older generation had accepted. . . .

"During the initial [televised] press conference of the coup leaders, I was watching TV with a group of Russian [intellectuals]. Nobody was saying anything because everybody was kind of frightened. This was the morning of the coup, and suddenly somebody said, 'These guys look like the [Nazi] defendants at Nuremberg.' The first comment in the group, and it was so accurate. . . . Humor created this wave of hope, which soon overtook the coup and really engulfed it from all directions and left the older generation pulling levers that didn't have any response, because the people at the other end had simply defected."

On the day of the coup, Dr. Billington said, "I was awakened early in the morning [at the hotel] by Mikhail [Levner] saying that an ominous announcement had been made, so I turned on the television and I was immediately alerted to the fact that there was something unusual because this was what used to happen with a death of a [Soviet] leader. They preempt television and put on classical music and this morning you had Romeo and Juliet actually played twice. . . . So you knew that something strange was going on and then the next thing was the [TV] press conference later in the day.

"I went to our meeting at our office with my colleagues from the Library of Congress with Mikhail Levner. As you know, he works in a library of the Academy of Science. The director of that library had taken

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and walked away. And she turned to her coworker and said, 'We'll never see it again.' "

Ms. Montviloff first got word of the coup's failure while working at the exhibit. "A Russian from an exhibit of the Book Chamber said, 'Russia has wonderful news. The coup leaders have been arrested.' And my first reaction was, 'I don't believe you. That's impossible.' But then later on it was confirmed by a taxi driver. We got a lot of information from them. They were very good sources."

☐ The chief of the Network Development and MARC Standards Office, Sally McCallum, was able to watch the symbolic dismantling of Communism firsthand. On Thursday evening, she watched the bringing down of the statue of KGB founder Felix Dzerzhinsky. The job "had to be done very carefully," Ms. McCallum said, "because they were afraid that if it fell, it would damage the subway" below the street. After the statue was gone, she described the scene as "a madhouse. All the cars were honking in support, and people were trying to pry off pieces of the pedestal."

While she was there Ms. McCallum spent several hours talking to

Not used to having their picture taken in public, these Muscovites stare suspiciously at their photographer. *Photo by Henry Paris*

Russians who spoke English, some of whom were Communist Party members who said they now regretted having profited at the expense of their countrymen.

Did she ever feel unsafe? "Not really. I felt [the military hardware in the streets] was more like a big show. It looked absurd."

☐ William H. Robinson, deputy director of the Congressional Research Service, was in Moscow for two meetings. He first thought that the Russian people would accept the hardliners' attempt to control the government and then feared the growing possibility of a bloody civil war as citizens took to the streets and the barricades on Tuesday night, Aug. 20.

"My perception as a political analyst was that Monday things were very quiet; it looked like the citizens of the former Soviet Union were going to acquiesce," Mr. Robinson said. "But Monday night Yeltsin's speech from a tank in front of the White House had the effect of galvanizing the people."

He said censorship of television and the newspapers drove information

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Librarian *(Cont. from p. 372)*

Gorbachev's picture down that morning and put up a picture of a bouquet of flowers. . . and I can tell you that the majority of the Soviet establishment was either ambivalent or tended to be sympathetic to the proposition that the country needed a strong hand, and that view coincided very strongly with their self-interest and that of their respective institutions. . . .

"It was plain that something fundamentally different was happening around the White House. For one thing, people were individually motivated. It wasn't a mob. It was a lot of mostly very well educated people, and as I thought about it later, they were a reflection of the people with Yeltsin inside the White House. . . .

"There was some marvelous symbolism. For instance, on each of the tanks [that sided with Yeltsin] they would have an elected deputy from the Russian Republic who would be in the tanks with the crews. So it was clear that the tank units were subordinate to elected authority and the civilians represented the legal authority of the Russian people, because these were civilians who had been elected by the people. So if the coup leaders were going to come in and blow up these tank crews for insubordination, they were going to have to kill an elected deputy who was sitting in each one of these tanks. . . .

At the White House, continued the Librarian, "the speeches got shorter and shorter and [Yeltsin's activists] were doing more and more. They were delivering McDonald's hamburgers [to the crowd]. . . . It was simply a fact of setting up an instant support system for these people."

At another meeting with Russian librarians, Dr. Billington recalled, "these were not really political activists at all. These were really the pure bibliographers who were

(Cont. on p. 374)

underground, literally, to the subway stations, where notices that had been generated on someone's personal computer "were posted on every pillar." Tanks blocked surface transportation, so the people took to the subways, too. There they crowded around the computer-generated notices to learn of Yeltsin's demands of the coup leaders and to exchange information about meetings and rallies.

The countercoup hastened the departure of the Robinsons from Moscow to Prague, where Mr. Robinson was scheduled to join a U.S. congressional delegation on Aug. 21 to celebrate a gift of technology and information to legislatures of emerging East European democracies (see story, page 367). At 10 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 20, the Robinsons' Russian friend knocked on their hotel room door to report that people were massing in the streets by the hundreds of thousands, and were organizing into brigades.

"My friend, who is ordinarily unflappable, was genuinely concerned," Mr. Robinson said. "He said, 'I think you need to get out of town tonight if you want to get to the airport.' So we packed in 15 minutes [a curfew announced by the coup leaders took effect at 11 p.m.] We paid a taxi driver three months' wages—$50—to get us to the airport. I was bound and determined to make

A child pays her respects to one of the three who lost their lives while resisting the hardliners. *Photo by Judy McDermott*

my flight to Prague Wednesday morning because I had a very important meeting with a congressional delegation. My wife had planned to stay in Moscow, but we decided to stay together."

At the airport, the Robinsons joined thousands of others who were stranded because there was no transportation for incoming flights. "We stretched out on our luggage on the floor and acted like refugees," he said. Their flight left on schedule for Prague Wednesday morning, and on Thursday he returned to Moscow.

"We didn't think we would come back," Mr. Robinson said. "We thought there might be civil war, that with people in tanks loyal to both sides, there could be serious shooting. But, midway through our business in Prague, the coup collapsed so I went back just in time to celebrate its failure."

The celebration Thursday night was at a Parliamentary Library Section dinner with the secretariat of the Supreme Soviet. "We celebrated the victory of the rule of law," Mr. Robinson said.

He said he was pleased that the people rallied and the coup failed so quickly. "It was reassuring . . . to those who had wondered about the commitment of the Russian people to democracy . . . that there was a considerable number of people willing to take a significant risk to keep the freedoms they had so recently experienced," Mr. Robinson said.

Mr. Robinson is secretary of the Parliamentary Libraries Section of IFLA. He presented a paper on how to create research and information capability for a legislature. The theme of the section meeting was providing assistance to libraries of East European countries newly democratizing and learning more

(Cont. on p. 375)

Librarian *(Cont. from p. 373)*

working under the most difficult of circumstances at a whole lot of institutions. But you could just sort of see a kind of quiet federation. There wasn't a lot of bravado, there wasn't a lot of talk. And they said, 'Well we've got to go now.' I said, 'Well, you know, I want to go with you,' and they said, 'No, this is our problem. We've got to go but we want to take you home first.'

"At the end, the guy who is head of the bibliographic association said a wonderful thing to me. 'You must forgive us,' he said, 'for having imposed on the world so long this kind of government.' That was all he said. I didn't see him again until the big Kremlin reception of IFLA, which was held 24 hours later," after the coup failed.

Then Dr. Billington discussed the coup and its aftermath:

"Consider the problem of a new democratic republic. What do you do with the KGB files? I was called up the last day by Rudolf Pikhoya. He had visited the Library of Congress. He said he was sorry he wasn't going to be able to get to see me off. But he had been put in charge of the [communist] Central Committee Archive. He said, 'You wouldn't believe what we're finding here. So I not only can't see you off, I can't eat or sleep. I'm here.' "

about the development of libraries in the Soviet Union.

He also has been part of the Library's program of cooperation and exchange with the Secretariat of the Supreme Soviet. He met with the deputy chairman of the Secretariat. The thrust of the meeting was a proposal to continue the exchange of documents and to have additional staff seminars; two of these seminars were based in Moscow and the next is planned for the United States in spring 1992, "depending upon the evolution of the new legislature for the former Soviet Union and its staffing," Mr. Robinson said.

It was in line with this effort to bolster emerging democratic legislatures that Mr. Robinson met in Prague with a delegation headed by Rep. Martin Frost, a Texas Democrat. Mr. Robinson is coordinating a congressional project to provide technology and information to the parliaments of Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria and Poland. The Prague meeting celebrated the Frost delegation's gift of 100 personal computers, technological know-how and training, as well as books and serial subscriptions, to Czechoslovakia's parliament.

☐ Henry Paris, chief of the Materials Development Division of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, saw firsthand the action in the streets. He was one of the only Library staffers to stay at the Belgrad Hotel, in front of which three persons were killed during the countercoup demonstrations. The hotel is about 100 yards from the Moscow River, which winds past the Russian parliament building, or White House—and on past the site of the IFLA conference at the Moscow Center for International Trade and Scientific Cooperation with Foreign Countries.

From his hotel, Mr. Paris walked about one-half mile to the White House and then about a mile to the conference center. "To get to the conference center, I had to go through the barricades," he said.

He described events as they began to unfold on Aug. 19. "On Monday morning I was coming down to breakfast in the elevator, and a person asked me, 'Are you an American? Well, I am with CNN, and we have heard there is probably a coup and Gorbachev is probably dead.' For a few hours everybody I knew thought he was dead, so it was natural that people should look to Yeltsin.

"I don't think they [coup leaders] ever expected that so many people would spontaneously resist," Mr. Paris said. "The army couldn't get around because the streets were blocked, but the people were getting around on subways. Signs on the subways told people where to assemble next; the countercoup was incredibily well organized.

"By Tuesday, it was pretty well understood that the government had set a curfew at 11 p.m. and nobody was to be out after that. People began to build barricades to keep tanks away from the [White House] where Yeltsin was located, uprooting trolley cars and putting them across streets, driving up with bulldozers, trucks. People would come in work vehicles, such as a dump truck, park it, and jump out. Even on Moscow River in front of [the White House], bargemen pushed barges up and barricaded the river.

"Street after street after street became impenetrable. It would have taken a massive frontal attack to even get through," Mr. Paris said. "Someone put up a barrage bulletin, like a blimp, and hung an old Russian flag from it as a rallying sign for people to assemble under," he said.

"At no time was I sorry that I was there," Mr. Paris said, "and given the way it worked out, I was glad I was there. It was a wonderful

(Cont. on p. 383)

LC in the News

☐ It was a case of being in the right place at the right time.

James H. Billington, Librarian of Congress, a historian of Soviet culture, felt himself fortunate to have been in Moscow during the August coup attempt.

He thus was able to write from experience two op-ed pieces, which appeared in the Sept. 8 *Washington Post* and Aug. 30 *New York Times*.

In *The Times* he wrote, "Communism died and Russia was reborn in Moscow in a 48-hour period from early morning on Aug. 19 to early morning on Aug. 21."

Dr. Billington wrote that "the West must move rapidly to work in new ways with altogether new people in the Soviet Union, including the provincial leaders who were almost unanimous in rejecting the junta. The possibilities for good are very great, but they may not last another winter. The economy remains in shambles and immense pro-putsch forces remain in place with the desire to use social dislocation as an excuse for a fresh attempt at power."

His advice to U.S. officials: Allow Soviet citizens to come to America to see democracy in action, rather than sending Americans abroad to advise the Soviets, he said in *The Post*. "The peoples of the U.S.S.R. do not need to be persuaded of the virtues of democracy; they need to see for themselves that it can work and how, in fact, it does work. . . .

"The surge of hope of the August upheaval could well produce a backlash of despair unless larger numbers of Russians can gain some firsthand sense of how democratic and market institutions actually work," he continued. "Their renewed moral idealism needs a reinforcing response as well—some sense that we are willing to give of ourselves to those who have both lifted a cloud of danger from our common skies and begun building a more open and honest kind of existence."

Soviet, U.S. Cataloging Specialists Reach Important Goal

For the first time, it is possible for the All-Union Book Chamber of the Soviet Union to distribute its cataloging to other libraries in an international standard communication format.

The All-Union Book Chamber is the Soviet agency that produces the national bibliography *Knizhnaia Letopis*. On June 11 two librarians from the Book Chamber came to the Library to complete work begun three years ago.

The U.S.-U.S.S.R. Bibliographic Exchange Project was created to make cataloging records from the Soviet national bibliography available in UNIMARC, an international standard developed for the communication of bibliographic data in machine-readable form. After a week of intense work resolving format conversion problems and addressing differences in cataloging, LC and Book Chamber staff reported to management that the major goals of the project had been reached.

The project took shape during the U.S.-U.S.S.R. Seminar on Access to Library Resources Through Technology and Preservation, held at LC in July 1988. At that time, staff from the Book Chamber asked the Library for help in developing computer programs to convert their bibliographic information to UNIMARC. LC has much expertise in this area and for many years has maintained several programs that can convert bibliographic records from USMARC to UNIMARC and vice versa. LC agreed to work with the Book Chamber and together they drafted program specifications that were carried back to Moscow.

In August 1989 two LC specialists, Natalia Montviloff, of the Slavic Section of the Shared Cataloging Division, and Randall Barry, a MARC standards specialist in the Network Development and MARC Standards Office, were sent to Moscow to continue work on the project. The International Research and Exchanges Board sponsored the exchange of experts, covering travel, lodging and meal expenses.

First on the discussion agenda in Moscow were the differences between Soviet and U.S. cataloging rules. Some complex technical problems regarding the conversion of certain Soviet bibliographic records (specifically, records for multivolume works and items in monographic series) were also addressed. It was apparent then that yet another meeting was needed.

It took almost two years to make arrangements for a return trip of staff from the Book Chamber to the Library of Congress. The U.S.-U.S.S.R. Bibliographic Exchange Project was affected by several aspects of *perestroika*, not the least of which was the heavy bookings of Aeroflot flights in and out of the Soviet Union. Like many other Soviet agencies, it was difficult for the Book Chamber to overcome some of the financial and technical hurdles, but LC's guests finally arrived.

For Nataliia Nikolaevna Gruzinskaia, chief cataloger in the Department of National Bibliography, it was her first visit to the United States. She had worked with Americans in Moscow during a visit by Library of Congress staff in 1989, but had never seen Washington or the Library of Congress.

Her colleague, Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Ratnikov, head of programming in the Department of Automation, had attended the seminar at LC in 1988. It was he who had worked with Mr. Barry in 1988 to write the specifications for a computer program to convert the Book Chamber's bibliographic records to the UNIMARC format.

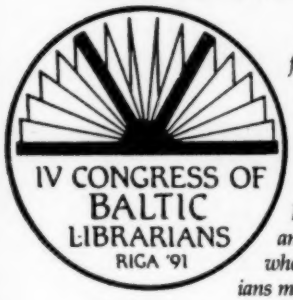
Said Mr. Ratnikov of his meetings at LC: "The discussions held this time, particularly those with the Cataloging Distribution Service dealing with marketing of bibliographic records, were very enlightening."

The two Soviets spent most of their time working with LC staff in cataloging record production and

(Cont. on p. 377)

Barry makes a point on bibliographic data conversion to (from left) Ratnikov, Montviloff and Gruzinskaia.

Baltic Librarians Group Convenes—After 50-Year Break



Following is a first-person account of the experiences of Eric A. Johnson, a senior exchange specialist in the Library's Exchange and Gift Division, who attended a librarians meeting June 20–21 in Latvia:

The IV Baltic Librarians Congress held in Riga, Latvia, was first and foremost a political event.

Originally scheduled for 1941, the IV Congress was shelved for 50 years because of back-to-back Soviet-German-Soviet occupations in 1940, 1941 and 1944. Both the Soviets and the Germans banned the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian library associations as nationalistic and, therefore, anti-Soviet or anti-Nazi. As a result, the triennial joint congresses of these three associations could not be held.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's policies of *perestroika* and *glasnost* began to change all that, and the Estonian Library Association was able to re-establish itself in 1988. This was quickly followed by the Latvian and Lithuanian library associations in 1989. Taking advantage of the symbolic 50-year gap, the Latvian Library Association (in conjunction with the National Library of Latvia) decided to convene the IV Baltic Librarians Congress in 1991. After some rather hasty arrangements, the Congress was scheduled for June in Riga—the city that was to have hosted the IV Congress back in 1941.

The IV Baltic Librarians Congress, however, was more than just a symbolic historical meeting. Besides bringing together librarians from throughout the Baltics and around the world, the Congress had another success: The three library associations agreed to establish an All-Baltic Coordinating Committee. The creation of this committee, which will be made up of the director of the national library, the head of the library association and another representative from each of the three Baltic nations, is an important first step in institutionalizing professional cooperation among librarians in the Baltics.

While the IV Baltic Librarians Congress succeeded in formalizing cooperation, it failed to achieve any definite steps toward that goal. A Latvian proposal to create an All-Baltic on-line union computer catalog of items in the collections of major Baltic research libraries ran into several difficulties. First, while the Latvians and Lithuanians have chosen UNIMARC (UNIversal MAchine Readable Cataloging) as their standard for the creation of electronic bibliographic

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Soviet Cataloging *(Cont. from p. 376)*

distribution. They were greeted by Henriette D. Avram, associate librarian for Collections Services; talked with staffers in the Cataloging Directorate, Cataloging Distribution Service and Information Technology Services; and met with Dr. Billington, who, being a Soviet scholar, took a special interest in the project.

The free time left was spent sightseeing in and around Washington. There was no rain during their stay, but oppressive heat forced some outdoor activities to be moved indoors. The Soviet guests visited Arlington Cemetery, the Capitol, National Cathedral and the recently renovated Union Station. They also attended several dinners in their honor at the homes of LC staff.

The most noteworthy result of the three-year project was the completion of the computer program that the Book Chamber can now use to process its cataloging records for marketing worldwide. The quality and quantity of the Soviet bibliographic records will make them a valuable product to bibliographic utilities and libraries such as LC. Records conform fully to the UNIMARC standard and will include cataloging information transliterated into roman script. Fully romanized records are being provided initially because so many existing library systems process roman script data.

The work done to reconcile differences between Soviet cataloging rules and the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2nd edition (AACR2), will make their records particularly useful in western countries. Many countries follow AACR2, including all of the English-speaking world. AACR2 has also been translated into Arabic, Portuguese, Spanish and other languages.

At the conclusion of their final week together, Library of Congress and All-Union Book Chamber staff were hopeful that the project will be an impetus to continued cooperation, especially in the areas of name authority control and retrospective conversion of older bibliographic records, for which some preliminary discussions occurred. The Book Chamber does not currently produce name authority records (LC's name authority data base contains more than 2 million records). The Book Chamber also has more than 3 million manual bibliographic records waiting to be converted to machine-readable form. Managers of both institutions have not yet discussed the nature or scope of future cooperative projects.

The work done over the past three years occurred behind the scenes and without much fanfare, but the completion of this joint project signals the beginning of a new phase of Soviet-American library cooperation.

—Randall K. Barry

Hispanic Division Welcomes International Clientele

Paraguayan writer Rubén Bareiro Saguier discusses literature while visiting Georgette Dorn at LC.

by Georgette Dorn

"Although one hesitates to publicize the location of a treasure, I must add my name to the list of the Hispanic Division patrons who declare that there is no finer place on earth to study United States-Latin American relations."

So wrote Lars Schoultz, professor at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and current president of the Latin American Studies Association, in an introduction to his 1981 book *Human Rights and U.S. Policy in Latin America.*

Ever since its establishment in 1939 the Hispanic Division and its Reading Room have been a magnet for scholars from around the world.

According to Nicaraguan poet Pablo Antonio Cuadra, LC "performs the functions of a 'national library' for many Latin American countries."

Andeanists also have good reason to travel far to use the division's collections. For example, Franklin Pease, former director of the National Library of Peru and ethnohistorian of the Andes, spent this past July and August at the Library comparing various editions of 16th and 17th century Andean chronicles to produce a definitive study. Mr. Pease said he always found "veritable treasures in Andean studies" while he was doing research here. Mr. Pease was invited for an eight-week seminar at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, organized by John Murra, a well-known Andean anthropologist and professor emeritus at Cornell. (Dumbarton Oaks is a research institution devoted to pre-Columbian and other studies.) During the seminar, Mr. Pease lectured on LC's Andean chronicles. Other Dumbarton Oaks Andeanists who worked in the Hispanic Reading Room are Maria Rostworowski from Lima, Peru; Inge Schjellerup, Danish National Museum in Copenhagen; John Topic, Trent University, Ontario, Canada; and Charles Hastings, Central Michigan University.

Mr. Hastings was surprised to find "so much relevant research material in Andean archaeology, such as censuses from the colonial period and early indepedence." The Library obtained all these materials through international exchange at the beginning of this century.

Chilean-American writer Elena Castedo has been a Hispanic Division reader for 16 years. Her first novel, *Paradise,* a runner-up for the National Book Award in 1990, was nominated for Spain's Cervantes prize and was chosen "book of the year" by the leading Chilean daily *El Mercurio.* Ms. Castedo also wrote the book in Spanish, which she says she did not "translate but create." *Paradise* became the first novel written in Spanish and in another language to win major nominations or prizes in both languages.

Scholars who use the Hispanic Reading Room are often supported by research grants. For example, the U.S. Information Agency sponsored Ximena Feliú, director of the Chilean Congressional Library

And Rockefeller fellows undertaking cross-cultural studies were Regina Harrison of Bates College (whose book received an honorable mention of the 1991 Bryce Wood Book Award) and Barbara Tenenbaum, editor of the *Encyclopedia of Latin American History.*

The Reading Room also gets its share of Fulbright grantees, notably, Joaquín José Salaverría, director of the National Archives of El Salvador; linguist Michael Dash from the University of West Indies in Jamaica; and theater critic Carola Oyarzún of Chile. Other Fulbright scholars have come from Barbados, Venezuela and Nicaragua.

Some readers even come from as far away as Central and Eastern

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Archive Lets Users 'Hear Literature'

When people think of literature, they think of the *printed* word.

But another source at the Library is tape, and for Luso-Hispanic and Caribbean literature, the Archive of Hispanic Literature on Tape, begun in 1942, is where patrons can turn to "hear literature" by those who wrote it.

More than 600 authors have been recorded, seven of them Nobel laureates, including Pablo Neruda (1971), Gabriel García Márquez (1982) and Octavio Paz (1990). Recordings are made in the studios of the Library or according to LC specifications in studios of the U.S. Information Agency in various Luso-Hispanic countries. Among the almost 100 authors recorded overseas, for example, are Catalan poets Augusto Roa Bastos, Victoria Ocampo, Jorge Amado, Raquel de Queiroz, Léon Laleau, Luc Grimard, Juan Rulfo, Nicolás Guillén and Sofía de Mello Breyner Andresen.

Early on, Gabriela Mistral, the first Latin American Nobel laureate in literature, realized the importance of the Archive. She said in 1950, referring to the need to tape poets overseas: "This effort to liberate poetry from the limitations of the printed word must be comprehensively undertaken. Let us bear in mind that not all of us have this opportunity to pass through Washington. The best of our poets do not leave their Latin American homes."

The Hispanic Division has begun adding videotaped interviews to the Archive of several of the most prominent authors. For example, Jorge Luis Borges was videotaped at LC's Coolidge Auditorium in 1984, interviewed by his friend and translator, poet Alastair Reid (who in turn recorded in 1978 for the English-language series of LC literary recordings). Mr. Borges, who had recorded twice before, remarked that the Library reminded him "of the mythical labyrinthine library of Babel."

Other videotaped interviews include those of Brazilian Nélida Piñón, Chilean José Donoso, Argentines Abel Posse and Ernesto Sábato, Cuban novelist Guillermo Cabrera Infante and Spaniard José Luis Castillo Puche.

In addition to Spanish, Portuguese, French and English, Amerindian writers in languages such as Quechua, Zapotec, Aymara and Guaraní have been recorded. Rubén Bareiro Saguier is a Spanish- and Guaraní- speaking Paraguayan writer who recorded in Paris in 1987. Peruvian Andrés Alencastre read selections from his poetry for Francisco Aguilera, a former staffer in the Hispanic Division who traveled to Cuzco just to record this author. Mr. Alencastre accompanied his reading by playing the *quena*, an ancient Andean musical instrument. Poet Rei Berroa, a Dominican Republic native living in the United States, accompanied his poetry reading by playing his guitar compositions.

Many of those who have recorded for the Archive are very powerful politically. In Latin America, prominent political figures often begin as literary giants. Former president and recent Dominican Republic presidential candidate Juan Bosch recorded short stories for the Archive in 1989. Rómulo Gallegos (Venezuela), José Bustamante i Rivero and Fernando Belaúnde Terry (Peru), José Sarney (Brazil) and Juan José Arévalo (Guatemala) are all writers who recorded for the Archive and who had served as chief executives of their country. Another major political and literary figure who read for the Archive was internationally acclaimed novelist and Peruvian presidential candidate (1990) Mario Vargas Llosa. Chilean novelist and former diplomat Jorge Edwards recorded twice for the Archive.

In 1960 Puerto Rican writers became a part of the Archive with the reading of José Balseiro. Some of the 20 Puerto Rican writers represented are: Luis Rafael Sánchez, Enrique Laguerre, Rosario Ferré, Concha Meléndez, Gustavo Agrait and Arturo Morales Carrión.

Inclusion of Chicano authors began in 1979. The first to record was Bruce Novoa, a poet, essayist and critic. The well-known Mexican and Chicano critic Luis Leal was recorded in 1985 at the University of California at Santa Barbara, in an interview conducted by Bruce Novoa. Rudolfo Anaya, who writes in English, was interviewed for the Archive in 1986 by Paul Vasallo, who at the time was director of Libraries at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque (he is now director of the Washington Research Libraries Consortium).

The dean of New Mexican Hispanic writers, Sabine Ulibarri, read prose fiction for the Archive in Spanish and was also interviewed by Georgette Dorn, the division's specialist in Hispanic culture. According to Mr. Ulibarri, "New Mexican authors represent what is best in Chicano literature, for their roots are deeply embedded [in both cultures]. . . . New Mexicans have been here for over four hundred years, and if four hundred don't qualify you as a *native*, what on earth does?"

Each recording in the Archive is accompanied by notebooks containing the texts and biographical information about each author. Patrons may listen to the recordings in the Hispanic Reading Room.

A Recent Welcome for Two Very Important Guests

On Sept. 4, the Hispanic Division held an informal luncheon discussion about current fiction writers in Colombia with Juan Gustavo Cobo Borda, Colombian poet, critic and director of the Department of Culture in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Cobo Borda summed up contemporary currents in fiction rooted in Colombia's history by briefly analyzing works by Gabriel García Márquez (*The General in His Labyrinth* and *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*) and also novels by less well known authors in America such as Fernando Cruz Kronfly and Próspero Morales Pradilla. Mr. Cobo Borda focused on the special insights a novelist brings to history and society. He recorded for the Archive of Hispanic Literature on Tape in 1976 and is a member of the advisory board of the Archive.

Former ambassador and Costa Rican poet Laureano Albán came to the Library on Rosh Hashanah, Sept. 9, to donate his most recent work, *Todas la piedras del muro (All the Stones of the Wall)*, which he wrote while he was his country's ambassador in Jerusalem. The quadrilingual edition (in Spanish, English, French and Hebrew) addresses some of the fundamental values of the legacy of Jewish thought to Western culture. Mr. Albán recorded for the Archive of Hispanic Literature on Tape in 1983. He has won several international literary prizes, among these, the Hispanic Culture award's first prize (1981). The author of 17 books of poetry, Mr. Albán was accompanied by the cultural attaché of the Embassy of Costa Rica, Mirta de Perea, and the first secretary of the Embassy of Costa Rica at the Organization of American States, Carla Facio.

Juan Gustavo Cobo Borda (above); at the Sept. 9 ceremony were (from left): Cole Blasier, Hispanic Division chief; Ellen Hahn, director of Public Service and Collections Management, Constituent Services; poet Laureano Albán; Mirta de Perea, cultural attaché of the Embassy of Costa Rica; Carla Facio, first secretary of the Embassy of Costa Rica at the Organization of American States; and Georgette Dorn, LC specialist in Hispanic Culture. *Photos by Alex Pohl and Yusef El-Amin*

Hispanic Division *(Cont. from p. 378)*
Europe to use the collections: Deputy Director Anatoly Bekarevich and two colleagues traveled from the Soviet Union, where they are scholars at the Latin American Institute of the Academy of Science.

Such visitors are well served, because the division's chief, Cole Blasier, is a leading authority on Soviet-Latin American relations.

Georgette Dorn, specialist in Hispanic culture, also works with German- as well as Hungarian-language sources. Two Hungarian visitors were critic László Scholz and novelist Pablo Urbányi. And from the Far East, Japanese economist Kotaro Horisaka (a contributing editor of the annual *Handbook of Latin American Studies)* has come to use the collections.

Iêda Siqueira Wiarda, Luso-Brazilian specialist, recently hosted Brazilian industrialist and bibliophile José Mindlin during his visit to LC.

A basic reference source in the field is *The Handbook of Latin American Studies,* the field's most authoritative annotated bibliography. The *Handbook,* edited by Dolores M. Martin, is the Hispanic Division's major bibliographic project.

Many of the writers who come to the division are helped by Everette
(Cont. on p. 381)

Early Mexican-American Treasures in LC's Collections

Hispanics have influenced America since the nation's beginning. Nowhere can this influence be better seen than in the Southwestern and Southeastern United States, in areas that used to be known as the "Spanish borderlands."

In recent years "Chicano" has come to identify the culture and society of Mexican Americans inhabiting the Spanish borderlands. Library of Congress readers will find vast collections of materials on the history of Chicano society and culture. According to the late Franciscan scholar and former contributing editor of *The Handbook of Latin American Studies* Lino Gómez Canedo, the earliest printed texts recording Chicano history within the present limits of the United States are, in all probability, *Historia de la Nueva Mexico del Capitán Gaspar de Villagra Año 1610* (Alcalá de Henares: 1610), *Memorial de Fray Alsonso de Benavides* (Madrid: 1630) and Carlos Sigüenza y Góngora's *Mercurio volante con la noticia de la recuperación de las provincias del Nuevo México . . .* (Mexico: 1693); all three are in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division.

A sampling of other Chicano items in the Library:

Housed in the Geography and Map Division is the book *Treinta y dos mapas . . .* (Mexico: 1603) by Gerónimo Martín Palacios, which describes the explorations by Spanish navigators along the Pacific coast of the United States. Geography and Map also holds the Woodbury Lowery Collection, with 300 original and facsimile maps relating to former Spanish possessions within the United States. Some of the rarest printed maps of North America are in the American Map Collection in the division.

From the beginning of the 19th century, Spanish-language newspapers began appearing in the United States, among these, *La República*, published in San Francisco, and *El Mundo*, published in Brownsville, Texas. After the Library of Congress moved from the Capitol to its own building in 1897, it began more systematically to collect literature, history, folklore materials, manuscripts and maps from and about the areas that were once under Spanish, and later Mexican, rule. The Law Library houses Spanish and Mexican laws, statutes, official gazettes and copies of all treaties relating to the areas under consideration. Of special interest in the general collections are records of Spanish-Mexican land grants and their fate during the half century after the Mexican-American War. These records can be found in reports by the U.S. General Land Office and those of the U.S. Attorney General.

Relevant holdings in the Manuscript Division include diaries, official documents, histories of missions and presidios and land registers of Florida, Louisiana, New Mexico, Texas, among others. There are also accounts of native Americans written by Spaniards and Mexicans, such as Jean Louis Berlandier's and José Francisco Ruiz's descriptions of Comanche and Arapaho groups in Texas.

The Woodbury Lowery Collection of notes and transcripts consists of material on Florida, New Mexico, California, Texas and Louisiana. The Hans P. Kraus Collection contains valuable manuscripts relating to the Aztecs, New Spain (now Mexico) and Spanish Florida. The Hispanic Division has published a guide to this collection.

The Archive of Folksong in the American Folklife Center includes several collections of hundreds of discs, *Mexican-American Folksong and Music in Field Recordings*, compiled by John and Ruby T. Lomax, Charles Todd and Robert Sonkin, and other outstanding teams of folklore specialists; it was recorded chiefly in Texas, New Mexico and California from 1940 to 1978.

The Peabody Museum Collection of ethnological sound recordings (1890s–1910s) also includes early recordings by Zuni, Hopi and other native Americans. Other original field recordings are in the custody of the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division.

Architectural drawings and plans of pueblos, missions, presidios, monuments and structures in some of America's oldest cities, such as Santa Fe, N.M., and St. Augustine, Fla., can be found in the Historic American Buildings Survey collection, in the Prints and Photographs Division. The collection is indexed by location, building type and architectural detail.

These are just some of the Library's treasures relating to Chicano history. Most are available to readers in specialized reading rooms. Each custodial unit has finding aids to specific collections, and the Hispanic Division maintains listings and finding aids to nonbook materials on Mexican American and Chicano history and culture.

—Georgette Dorn

Hispanic Division *(Cont. from p. 380)* Larson, head of the Hispanic Reading Room, and the other area specialists. In addition, the division's various specialists prepare finding aids and descriptive materials of the collections. The Hispanic Focus series, for example, is devoted to topical research.

—Dr. Dorn is a specialist in Hispanic culture.

Hispanic Division's 'Ephemeral' Collections Become More Solid

As every librarian knows, it doesn't do much good to have a collection if there is no way to easily access its holdings.

Such was the case with the collection of some 3,500 items of ephemera (nonserial publications, broadsides, fliers, posters, etc.) in the Hispanic Division that had gone uncataloged for a decade because of insufficient staff to do the job. Now, however, those ephemera are available to scholars of Mexican and Central American politics, society and history.

Brian Belanger, a recent Tulane Ph.D. and an expert in Latin American Colonial history who came to the Library on a 120-day assignment, has just completed a four-month project that included "batch cataloging" of the materials and a trip to Mexico City to round out the Mexican collection of ephemera. He was recruited by Georgette Dorn, the division's specialist in Hispanic culture.

Dr. Belanger's past made him especially suitable for the trip. "Mexico City is huge and chaotic," he said, but I had lived there before, on a Fulbright [scholarship], so I knew the city and how to manipulate public transportation.

"I canvassed neighborhoods" looking for sources of material, "and with only one exception, the parties had the materials I had asked for."

Were the political parties anxious for the Library to have its materials? "Yes, definitely," Dr. Belanger said. "Only one party, the [newly formed] PRD [Revolutionary Democratic Party], had provisions for archiving. When you asked for back issues of the other parties' publications, they'd look under the chairs and in the desk drawers, and have a couple items here and there. Once it was gone, it was gone for good."

Members of the PRD "have a good sense of their place in history. They were interested in maintaining contact with the Library because they liked the idea of their things being microfilmed. They can't do that," Dr. Belanger said. "They don't have the resources. Everyone else [from the other political parties] was really thrilled too. They asked whether they could have access to the microfilms" of their materials. (Yes, they could.)

Dr. Belanger's Mexico expedition did not take him to the doors of the nation's dominant party, the Institutional Revolutionary Party, better known as the PRI. Reason: The Library already gets that party's materials on a regular basis, through normal channels.

According to Dr. Belanger, "the opposing parties really feel they have a chance, that they are a viable alternative to the PRI," which has had a stranglehold on Mexican politics since 1929. "With the opening up of the political system in 1988, the opposing parties really feel they have a chance. . . . When you visit the parties, you can see their [relative] strength by the [complexity of the] infrastructure they have—computers, presses," said Dr. Belanger.

Because the Library's Central American collections of ephemera were so much stronger than the Mexican collection, Dr. Belanger only went to Mexico on his acquisitions trip. "I increased the collection by a third, visiting over 35 different political organizations in one week. It was exhausting," he said.

Dr. Belanger has now broken down the collections into 79 batches for collection-level cataloging. "Some of the items are just a page and only have such information [that would be useful to a cataloger] as the name of the political party. It would be almost impossible to catalog them on an individual basis."

Now that Dr. Belanger's work is finished at the Library, he is off to begin his career as a history professor at St. Anselm's College in Manchester, N.H. —*Guy Lamolinara*

Brian Belanger discusses one of the political posters he cataloged for the Hispanic Division with intern Gabriela Boucher from the University of the Andes in Bogota, Colombia. *Photo by Reid Baker*

IFLA *(Cont. from p. 375)*

opportunity, a time to see something important.

"My sense was mostly confusion about what was going on," he added. "You people back here knew a lot more about what was going on. I had the TV on, but it wasn't CNN. There was one channel, with a guy playing cello all day long. I got conditioned so when I saw the guy with the cello I knew something big was going on.

"That night [Tuesday] the confrontation occurred. I was in the hotel and wasn't about to defy the curfew. I saw tanks moving around, heard gunshots. I figured people were being killed and had the sense that this was going to escalate into something much bigger, but it just didn't happen."

While at the conference center, "the minister of culture assured us that everything would continue. He urged us not to leave. We were given daily updates on everything. He really thanked us for not leaving and abandoning them. I think it helped to have a group of international observers; perhaps our being there and just being witnesses made [the hardliners] behave a little better."

☐ John Byrum, chief of Descriptive Cataloging and acting chief of Subject Cataloging, arrived in Moscow Aug. 16 to continue an international dialogue on simplifying cataloging rules to make it easier to exchange bibliographic information.

He left Aug. 31 with the sense that "we should do something to help" Russian librarians who are seeking technology, information and an exchange of materials.

Noting that "Dr. Billington has been very active for a long while" in exchanging ideas with scholars and bibliographers in the Soviet Union, Mr. Byrum said he thinks the West has an obligation to help the Soviet Union develop its bibliographic resources and make them available as soon as feasible, as well as to assist libraries with preservation and acquisition.

"I did get a very good feeling from the Russian librarians; about 500 attended the conference," Byrum said. "They are looking to us for technology and assistance."

That perception later was reinforced at a dinner in St. Petersburg (formerly Leningrad) with some employees of the state public library. "We had much to talk about," Mr. Byrum said. "They have a great deal of interest in what we're doing and are interested in exchanging materials and cataloging information. Conservation is another matter of great concern."

During the crisis in Moscow, Mr. Byrum checked with the U.S. Embassy at 5 p.m. every day for information to pass on to other Library staffers. Even the embassy's information was sketchy. For example, while Mr. Byrum was at the embassy on another matter the morning of Monday, Aug. 19, he heard announcements that Gorbachev had been deposed, which seemed to confirm the rumor circulating earlier that morning during breakfast at the Rossiya Hotel. "I found it hard to believe," he said.

At first, Mr. Byrum did not see much change on the streets. But "as hours passed, we could see that people were concerned. Initially, many seemed resigned; they went about business as usual," he said.

Monday night, Library staffers gathered in Dr. Billington's suite and discussed whether they should do anything other than attend meetings as scheduled. The embassy advised Americans to avoid demonstrations.

By Tuesday, the mood and street activity had changed. "It was clear the coup wouldn't be accepted. We saw [people] beginning to mass; tanks and troops began to arrive," he said. "I think we were all apprehensive about what this might lead to. Dr. Billington told the LC delegates at an IFLA convention reception at the Pushkin Museum about 8 p.m. Tuesday that he had heard there might be an attempted assault on the White House Tuesday night by the would-be government.

"By Wednesday morning," Mr. Byrum continued, "we heard indirectly that the embassy was suggest-

(Cont. on p. 384)

U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills and Register of Copyrights Ralph Oman beside the quill pen used by President Benjamin Harrison to sign the Chace Act, the first U.S. international copyright law. At the opening reception Sept. 16, remarks by Ms. Hills underscored the theme of the Library exhibit—that strong international copyright means "Justice for the Benefit of All." *Photo by Jim Higgins*

IFLA *(Cont. from p. 383)*
ing that those [visiting] in Russia should consider leaving. A number of people did leave the IFLA conference, which was ironic because only a matter of hours later, it was clear the coup had failed. By Wednesday afternoon the coup leaders were on the run.

"At 4 p.m. Wednesday, in fact, a young man came through the conference meeting rooms and announced the coup had failed. That was a moment of great relief to us who had stayed on and of great satisfaction that the right outcome had somehow miraculously occurred," Mr. Byrum said.

Wednesday night, conference delegates attended an IFLA reception in the Kremlin. "We were the first group to be in the Palace of Congresses after the coup failure, and there, that night, was a great celebration. The minister of culture spoke; he told us how pleased he was the IFLA had gone about its business as usual, with no panic or concern that the government could not handle itself," Byrum said. Several hundred delegates from all over the world, including the developing countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America, attended this "great, gala affair," with folk music presentations and "everybody celebrating and toasting."

"One hears about coups occurring and usually succeeding," Mr. Byrum said. "Since the revolution of 1917, the people have not risen up. It is almost incredible to me that they not only could resist it but succeed in their opposition."

Some of Mr. Byrum's other memorable moments while in Moscow:

☐ Crushed buses filled with flowers in memory of the three persons killed during the resistance at the White House. "Thousands of people were bringing flowers."

☐ Closure of the KGB headquarters. "A great crowd was in front of the building and the toppled statue."

☐ Crowds surrounding Communist Party headquarters, where "the people wouldn't let the party workers leave."

☐ A statue of Karl Marx bearing the slogan, "Workers of the World Unite," with the addition of fresh, red graffiti: "against communism."

☐ A 1½-hour conversation with the hotel restaurant's maitre d' "who talked about what his life had been like during 75 years of a failed experiment, and how pleased he was to have that behind and to have something different to look forward to."

"I feel very lucky to have been in such a place at such an important moment," Mr. Byrum said. "It was so great to be there, especially since the story had a happy ending."

Mr. Byrum represented the Library on the IFLA Standing Committee on Cataloging. He attended a meeting of the British, Canadian and Australian national libraries and the Library of Congress to exchange information regarding cataloging operations and policies.

"We worked on cataloging simplification to promote uniform practices among national bibliographic agencies [approximately 100] . . . to encourage the exchange of cataloging data and reduce the cost of redundant record creation," Mr. Byrum said. "From my point of view, this is the point of IFLA."

☐ Julianne Beall, assistant editor, Decimal Classification Division, and a member of the Standing Committee of the IFLA Section on Classification and Indexing, described her frustration at not being able to get news and information about what was happening during the coup and countercoup.

At breakfast on Monday morning, a librarian with a shortwave radio told her that, according to reports, Gorbachev was ill and could not carry on his duties. From then on, rumors circulated, but there was "no real news."

Tuesday morning, instead of using the subway to get from the Rossiya Hotel to the conference at the World Trade Center, Beall made the mistake of taking a bus that took a long, circuitous route across the Moscow River, out of town, and away from the action in order to avoid tanks and blocked streets. "It was hard to know what was happening," Ms. Beall said.

She kept busy at the conference, where she attended an average of three meetings a day, and when she got back to the hotel Tuesday night, there was no news on television. "We had been getting French- and Spanish-language stations on television, and the English-language super channel, as well as stations in Russian. The foreign stations were gone when we came home in the evening; an Intourist guide said satellite links had been cut at 4 p.m.

"There were a couple of film clips of tanks, but I couldn't understand Russian," she continued. "It could have been a parade; kids were climbing over them, and everything appeared to be sweetness and light," Ms. Beall said. "It really makes you appreciate real news."

Ms. Beall and other staffers said hotel guests clustered around bulletins posted in French near the Intourist office in the hotel. Crowds read handbills posted on subway system walls. These were "clearly a news source for people who could read Russian," she said.

After the coup failed, "Russian television began to get interesting," Ms. Beall said. "There was a long documentary with film of the action around the White House and with interviews; I was frustrated that I couldn't understand what was being said."

Ms. Beall swears she'll not travel abroad again without access to news reports. "Within a week after my return, I purchased a portable shortwave radio, and I'm not leaving the country without it," she said.

Ms. Beall said she never felt in any danger. "Mostly I tried to stay away from the action," she said, "but one time I was going to the American Embassy . . . and wound up on the backside of the White House, where they were just starting to build barricades; 20 to 30 people were milling around."

The Library's delegation remained "calm and sensible" even though tension mounted during the conference and some other delegates left. She said, "I didn't want to leave, although I thought there was a possibility we might be ordered to leave. I'm glad we weren't."

During the coup, Ms. Beall said, she was worried about Russian friends "who couldn't get out, as well as the implications for world politics, if the coup had succeeded." An English-speaking Russian delegate, whom she met at last year's IFLA conference in Stockholm, "commented that they [coup leaders] 'want to go back to the old ways, but it is too late.' "

☐ Merrily A. Smith, assistant national preservation officer, said she was never afraid, not even on the streets late one night alone.

"Americans have had a lot of experience with demonstrations over the past 20 years as well as a number of civil disturbances," she said. "There was a similar kind of feeling at antiwar demonstrations during the Vietnam era. Lots of people were massed together but it was not a riot. For me as a foreigner, the initial reaction was not fear."

Nonetheless, Ms. Smith conceded it was "pretty disturbing to see all the tanks as they were driving up toward the White House."

The first she heard of the coup was from a colleague who had called home and been told of U.S. news reports. Her next news came firsthand as she looked out the windows of a noontime shuttle to see tanks rumbling toward the White House. "I checked the street to see if tank treads had previously torn up the pavement—a sign that this might be a normal occurrence. It wasn't."

On more than one occasion, Ms. Smith walked past soldiers on tanks parked at the Kremlin, which she passed on the way to other destinations. "As we approached soldiers on tanks, they looked alert but not threatening. . . . Tanks were parked around, people were talking to the guys on the tanks and taking pictures," she said.

Until the coup collapsed Tuesday night, citizens she saw on the street reminded her of a 1969 visit as part of a Soviet-American cultural exchange program. "Then it was hard to have interaction with the Russians; they seemed nervous about talking to an American. It was very different this time, until the coup occurred; then their faces took on the same look—closed, wary," she said. "Of course, my perceptions are all filtered through the barrier of language since I don't speak Russian."

At a meeting on Monday night, Dr. Billington told the Library staff they should use their own judgment about whether to leave or stay. "Most of the Americans I talked to were not inspired to go home," Ms. Smith said. "We weren't personally threatened; we weren't at risk. Our embassy wasn't telling us to go home. It never occurred to me to leave; I had work to do," she said. "Here was this incredible historical event occurring; who wouldn't seize the opportunity to witness history being made?"

Ms. Smith came home with a piece of that history, a chunk of pink granite chipped from the base of a statue of Felix Dzerzhinsky, which was toppled in front of KGB headquarters. Ms. Smith watched as people tried to drag down the statue with cables slung around the figure on which someone had sprayed "Feliksu Konets!" (Felix Is Finished)."

Moscow's mayor promised the crowd a crane would remove the statue, and the next day only the base remained. "People were hammering on it and waving granite chips in the air and making V for victory signs," Ms. Smith said.

Early Tuesday morning, Aug. 20, Ms. Smith took a subway across town to the IFLA conference center to give a speech about preservation policy in small biomedical and science libraries. A member of the IFLA Conservation Section standing committee and director of the IFLA Core Programme on Preservation and Conservation (PAC), Ms. Smith visited the Lenin Library's Department of Restoration. At an open forum of all the delegates, she reported about the goals and objectives of PAC for the coming five years. "The thrust of the PAC Core Programme is to ensure that library materials in all formats be preserved in accessible form for as long as possible first by making libraries aware of what preservation is, what it does, why it is important; and then by creating a network of institutions, professionals and activities through which information about preservation issues can flow," Ms. Smith said.

☐ Kimberly Dobbs, chief of the Serial Record Division, is a member of an IFLA standing committee on serial publications. "Most of what we dealt with was committee business matters: we elected new officers for the committee, set the budget, and reviewed the status of projects.

"One continuing project is publishing an IFLA international directory of serials experts. . . . We hope it will come out in 1992. Another project is a manual for serials management focused toward developing countries, which have special problems because of limited staff and automation support."

Mr. Dobbs arrived in Moscow Friday, Aug. 16, and left Aug. 23. "My brother was accompanying me, and on Monday morning on the way to breakfast we overheard someone say the rumor is true.

"We went ahead with the meeting that morning," Mr. Dobbs said. The Library delegates met Dr. Billington for lunch at the Natural Sciences Library of the Academy of Sciences, where LC has its office.

"After the meeting, [CDS Chief] Susan Tarr and I decided to take a taxi over, probably a little after 11:30 a.m.," said Mr. Dobbs. "The taxi had to go around the White House, and that was the first we saw of what was happening. Tanks were rolling in. Our eyes got pretty big. It kind of reminded me of my days at Berkeley—several periods in the late '60s when we were under martial law. There weren't any tanks but there was a military presence, curfews. I felt under more personal danger in those days than I did in Moscow.

"By Tuesday morning," he continued, "we could no longer take shuttles to the conference center, nor taxis. So we took the subway. . . . There was no panic. The soldiers we saw with the tanks near the hotel and near the Kremlin were very nonthreatening. They were conversing with people."

By Wednesday, "We started hearing rumors that the coup was starting to unravel, that the resistance had stiffened and that some of the army supported Yeltsin."

After attending a joyous reception at the Kremlin that evening, he and several others went to the White House, where they saw overturned buses gutted by fire; some had been crushed by tanks.

"Both my brother and I feel very privileged to have been there, to have witnessed this," said Mr. Dobbs. "I hope they can overcome their problems, get their country on its feet."

—*Guy Lamolinara and Gail Fineberg*

Baltic Congress *(Cont. from p. 377)*

records, the Estonians have chosen CCF (Common Communication Format).

Second, none of the libraries in the Baltics has the equipment or funds to begin automating its collections. This situation, however, does have a silver lining. Because no library in the Baltics has made significant progress in automation, it may still be possible for all three nations to adopt a unified—or at least interchangeable—system.

DAY 1: JUNE 20

Almost every session at the Congress was standing-room-only.

The Estonian Library Association sent about 20 delegates, while the Lithuanian Library Association had some 30 representatives. Several hundred Latvian librarians attended, often in shifts. Because the Congress was held during working hours, most Latvians could only attend parts of the Congress. A handful of attendees were from outside the Baltics. In addition to the half-dozen ethnic Latvian librarians from the United States, Canada, England and Australia, the Norwegian president of the Nordic Association of Research Libraries and I attended. A half-dozen others, including the president of the Swedish Library Association and a representative from the Library Association of the United Kingdom, were denied visas by the Soviet government.

Because Leningrad is a Baltic port like Riga, members of the Leningrad Library Association were invited as "fellow Balts." To their credit, the two Russians from Leningrad, S.A. Basov, vice president of his association and a recently elected delegate of the Leningrad City Soviet, and A.S. Zonin, a library science professor, took full advantage of their Pan-Baltic status. According to Mr. Basov, the Leningrad Library Association, founded in 1989, was the first independent library association established in Russia.

It was encouraging to see the Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians seeking and promoting library cooperation with Russians outside of their own borders.

The IV Baltic Librarians Congress began the morning of June 20 in the beautifully restored Small Guild Hall in Riga's Old Town. Raimonds Pauls, Latvia's minister of culture, announced that the Latvian Parliament had passed legislation funding the construction of a new building to house the National Library.

The National Library of Latvia is presently scattered in 13 buildings throughout Riga. The project, to be designed by a Latvian-American architect, received both ruble and hard-currency funding. The all-important hard-currency funding increases the chances that the building will be completed in the near future.

In an interesting historical note, Adris Vilks, director of the National Library of Latvia, told me that the first Latvian Parliament (1920–1940) had wanted to build a national monument to independence. The two projects that made it to final consideration were a new national library building and a monument to freedom. The latter won and was built—but freedom was soon taken away from the Latvians. The second Latvian Parliament (1990-) chose a national library building as its more practical monument to freedom. This fact, and others helped gain the parliamentary support necessary to pass the library bill in a country in dire need of development.

There were signs during the introductory remarks that the Congress had been rather hastily convened. For example, all three speeches were in Latvian and thus could not be understood by the Estonians, Lithuanians or other foreigners. No interpretation was provided.

After Mr. Pauls had spoken, Aldis Abele addressed the Congress in Russian. As the president of the Latvian Library Association, he proposed to the voting delegates that an All-Baltic committee be established to coordinate the work of the three library associations. The proposal was adopted unanimously and without discussion. It was also announced that an all-Baltic library association journal would be published in English.

The voting process seemed very "Soviet" to me—something the other Balts remarked on privately to me as well. Ivi Eenmaa, director of the National Library of Estonia, went so far as to say she did not agree with the direction the committee was headed in but voted for the proposal to help ensure Baltic unity.

During a break following the opening session and at other times, I conducted much exchange business. Having visited all the key Baltic libraries in June 1990, I already knew the exchange department chiefs.

One of the most important discussions I had during these breaks was with Daina Lagzdone, new head of international acquisitions for the National Library of Latvia. As the Library of Congress' collection of the Latvian independent press is the weakest of the three Baltic countries, I was able to persuade Ms. Lagzdone to increase her mailings to LC.

During another break, I met Kazis Mackiavicius, head of the Lithuanian Scientific and Technical Library. We discussed the possibility of establishing an exchange between our libraries. During my visit to his library in early July, we finalized these discussions.

The second session of the first day consisted of a series of reports. These reports were in Russian and so could be understood by all except for some of the Latvian émigré librarians. Fortunately, interpreters were provided for this session and those that followed. Most interpreting was from Russian to English, but during some other sessions, interpreting was from Latvian to Russian.

Ms. Eenmaa, in her report on the National Library of Estonia and its renewed role as a parliamentary library, noted that the November 1990 law designating the National Library as the parliamentary library was the first "culturally oriented" law passed in Estonia in 50 years. She stressed that the library will strive for political neutrality.

Ivi Tingre, counselor of the Estonian Ministry of Culture, pointed out that Estonian libraries do not have the books to meet the new demands and interests of their readers. She invited all attendees to the V Baltic Librarians Congress, to be held in Tallinn, Estonia, in 1994. She joked that she hoped there would be no 50-year gap this time.

Baltic Unity. Indra Zaure, a department head at the Fundamental Library of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, stressed the conference theme: Baltic unity. She described Latvia as the key link between Lithuania and Estonia. Latvia and Estonia share common political and religious histories as well as a single university, while Latvians and Lithuanians are ethnically and linguistically linked.

Mr. Janis Turlajs, a leading specialist at the Latvian Ministry of Culture, discussed the weaknesses of the library profession in Latvia and urged librarians to take a more proactive stance. He noted that the average librarian's salary in 1939 was $15 a month. The average salary of a librarian in 1991 is only 150 rubles ($5) a month.

Lunch was followed by a roundtable discussion on the quality of library collections in the Baltics. While most of the major Baltic research libraries boast a collection of 3 million to 5 million items, the participants in the roundtable generally concluded that many holdings are essentially worthless—multiple copies of the complete works of Soviet leaders and Soviet books in areas such as history and Soviet social sciences—rather than having important research value. Most large Baltic libraries keep five or more copies of many

items; thus the number of titles is a fraction of the number of holdings.

While no one called for the wholesale destruction of books, everyone agreed that the highest priority should be to make the collections more balanced to reflect more than just the Marxist-Leninist world view—a view the Balts have repudiated.

Thus there is a need for book donations, but not the kind the libraries sometimes receive. For example, while the librarians were grateful to receive multiple copies of Baltic expatriate literature, they complained about the large numbers of "worthless" books they have been getting—especially from the United States. Many of the books come from personal libraries or garage sales. As one participant said: "What is the point of having a book on management from the 1950s? What we need is books on management from the 1990s. Almost every library in the Baltics is overcrowded as it is. The last thing they need is a book that no one in the U.S. wants. If no one in the U.S. wants them, it's safe to assume no one in the Baltics wants them."

Ethnic Rivalry. From this point, the discussion intensified, as ethnic rivalries surfaced. One Latvian librarian, for example, complained about the large number of Russian books in Latvian libraries (Russian-language material makes up 40 to 50 percent of the collections of most Baltic research libraries). His point was that these books were inferior to Latvian books simply because they were written in Russian (Latvians, who are barely 55 percent of the population of Latvia, are very sensitive to "cultural imperialism").

The discussion became heated until Ms. Eenmaa, the director of the National Library of Estonia, brought it to an abrupt end. For her, the intellectual value of a book is its most important attribute—not its language. She stunned many when she said she did not care if every book she acquired was in Russian as long as it was of use to her readers.

The National Library of Latvia and the Latvian Library Association invited all participants to a reception. In typical Soviet style, everyone had to be there at 7 p.m. sharp, when the doors would be opened and then would be locked behind us. No stragglers allowed.

DAY 2, JUNE 21

The Congress reconvened in the House of Journalists—also in Old Town Riga. The change of venues was yet another example of the hasty organization of the Congress as well as the intricacies of Soviet life. The reception the night before, for example, was possible only because the chef who prepared the food is married to an employee of the National Library.

The day began with a presentation by Mr. Basov of the Leningrad Library Society. He discussed the work of the society, its publication (*Novyi bibliotekar—The New Librarian*) and its political activity. The political activity—an attempt at gaining control of the society's future—resulted in a successful campaign to get Mr. Basov elected to the Leningrad City Soviet.

The key speaker was Per Morton Bryhn, president of the Nordic Association of Research Libraries. While his official reason for being at the Congress was to describe cooperation among Nordic libraries, Mr. Vilks had another reason for inviting Mr. Bryhn. Mr. Vilks is the driving force behind Baltic library cooperation. He had hoped that when the Balts saw the effects of Nordic library cooperation, they would see the benefits of Baltic library cooperation.

Unfortunately, there are many skeptical librarians—especially in Estonia—who have yet to realize the advantages of cooperation. Many Baltic libraries, which have only recently severed their connections with Moscow, are reluctant to subordinate themselves to any supranational structure. During the 50 years of Soviet occupation, "cooperation" was imposed from the top down. And so, for the moment, the Balts are asserting their total independence.

(When I spoke to Mr. Vilks later, I asked him if he had anything to do with the contents of Mr. Bryhn's talk. Mr. Vilks grinned and admitted that he had made some "suggestions.")

Finnish Influence. After a break, the Congress continued with its second roundtable, also on Baltic library cooperation. Estonia and its libraries are at least a year ahead of Latvia and Lithuania in almost every respect. Being just 80 kilometers from Finland is one reason why. Also, the Finns and Estonians are ethnically related, so much so that Estonia may become an official Nordic nation. Although Estonia has roughly two-thirds the population of Latvia and half the population of Lithuania, it has four times as much foreign investment as Latvia and eight times as much as Lithuania. Because the Estonian language is very similar to Finnish, many Estonians are migrant laborers in Finland. The result is an economy much more developed than its Baltic neighbors'.

Estonian libraries have benefited from having Ms. Eenmaa as the director of the National Library. By 1990, for example, she had already succeeded in merging the Estonian Book Chamber with the National Library and had gotten approval to begin functioning as a parliamentary library. Latvia followed suit in 1991. Lithuania's National Library, while it will begin performing some of the functions of a parliamentary library, has yet to absorb its Book Chamber. If the Estonians are "renegades" or reluctant to cooperate, it is because they feel that cooperation will hinder rather than help them.

But the librarians from the three nations did find some common ground. The national libraries agreed to exchange parliamentary documents. They also agreed to exchange their internal, printed union catalogs. These efforts are a sign that the Balts are building their own links. In the past, they were cut off from each other because they could only communicate via Moscow.

The Latvians, to their credit, pressed the issue of an All-Baltic Union Catalog. But this will require all the Baltic libraries to choose a single standard cataloging system and a single standard automation system. The Estonians were reluctant to join the cooperation bandwagon and tried to deflect the issue by saying that interfaces could be built to translate UNIMARC to CCF.

The final session was all Latvian. Thus most Estonians and several Lithuanians did not attend. Ms. Eenmaa and her associates were already on their way back to Tallinn. After a day of work, the interpreters were burned out (not enough of them had been hired) and their translations into Russian became more garbled as the afternoon progressed.

A paper was presented by Inese Auzina-Smith, a Latvian from England who spoke about the United Kingdom's Latvian Union Catalog and repeated the Latvian theme of the importance of cooperation. Unfortunately, the Estonians were not there to hear it.

The official portion of the Congress fizzled to an end: There was no grand finale, no closing session.

The Latvians did, however, stage an informal ending to this historical gathering. On June 23, the National Library of Latvia and the Latvian Library Association organized a Ligo celebration for librarians on a farm near Bauska in the south of Latvia. As is the custom on the Midsummer's Night holiday, the party lasted until dawn. The celebration of Ligo, much like the Congress itself, had been banned during the 50 years of Soviet occupation.

—Eric A. Johnson

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